

Message Text

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10

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 STRE-00 FEA-01 AGR-10

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INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05

CIEP-02 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02

OMB-01 SAM-01 /119 W

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R 051705Z MAR 76

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1231

AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS MTN GENEVA 1708

PASS STR FOR INFO

H PASS CODEL

PASS ITC, TREASURY, AGRICULTURE, USIA/IEU, USIA/IPS FOR ALLEN
AND COHOES, USIA/IOP FOR RICHARDSON FOR INFO

AMEMBASSY PARIS FOR USIS BOB THOMAS

EC BRUSSELS FOR HOFFMAN

OECD PARIS FOR LEVINE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO AMBASSADOR WILLIAM N. WALKER'S PRESS
CONFERENCE, PARIS MARCH 1

1. COVERAGE OF AMBASSADOR WALKER'S WELL-ATTENDED PRESS

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CONFERENCE WAS FAIRLY EXTENSIVE. PAPERS HIGHLIGHTED

FRENCH CHARGES OF U.S. PROTECTIONISM AND AMBASSADOR'S RESPONSE AS WELL AS FRENCH CONCERNS ABOUT MONETARY STABILITY. PRESS CONFERENCE WAS HELD JOINTLY WITH JACQUES FERRY, PRESIDENT OF FRENCH IRON AND STEEL ASSOCIATION AND VICE PRESIDENT OF PATRONAT.

2. FRANCE-SOIR, FEB. 29/MARCH 1, IN CURTAIN-RAISER TO AMBASSADOR'S VISIT ENTITLED "ECONOMIC WAR BETWEEN EUROPE AND US THREATENS," SAID THAT PROTECTIONISM IS GAINING GROUND EVERY DAY IN US. IF IMPORT QUOTAS ARE ADOPTED, IT WOULD NOT ONLY JEOPARDIZE INTERNATIONAL TRADE LIBERALIZATION BUT WOULD OPEN THE DOOR TO REPRISALS. NO ONE CAN SAY WHERE SUCH A CONFLICT WOULD LEAD THE INDUSTRIAL WORLD, BUT EUROPE WOULD BE POORLY SITUATED. "THE US CAN MORE EASILY DO WITHOUT IMPORTED INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS THAN THE EC CAN DO WITHOUT AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS."

3. MARCH 2 INTERNATINAL HERALD TRIBUTE IN ARTICLE ENTITLED "US OFFICIAL HITS FRENCH TRADE POLICY; SEES NO WILLINGNESS TO LOWER BARRIERS" SAID "MUTUAL DISTRUST WAS AIRED HERE TODAY." TWO PASSAGES OF WALKER SPEECH REFERRING TO FRENCH TRADE POLICY WERE CITED. THE ARTICLE REFERRED TO PRESS COFERENCE DISCUSSION OF PROTECTIONISM AND INTERNATIONAL MONETARY STABILITY, STATING "MR. FERRY SAID A RETURN TO MONETARY STABILITY WAS A PRECONDITION TO AGREEING ON ANY TARIFF CONCESSIONS. MR. WALKER REITERATED THE US VIEW THAT A RETURN TO FIXED EXCHANGE RATES WAS NOT NOW POSSIBLE GIVEN THE DIFFERENCES AMONG THE MAJOR COUNTRIES IN THEIR RATE OF INFLATION, THE PACE OF RECOVERY AND RELIANCE ON IMPORTED OIL."

4. LE FIGARO, MARCH 2, IN ARTICLE "THE UNITED STATES IS NOT PROTECTIONIST; LET'S BE ALLIES AND NOT ENEMIES" ALSO EMPHASIZED FRENCH CONCERN AT ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER TRADE ACT, BUT REPORTED FAIRLY WALKER STATEMENTS INCLUDING QUOTE FROM SPEECH EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE OF FRENCH/AMERICAN TIES.

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5. LE MONDE, MARCH 3, IN SLIGHTLY TONGUE-IN-CHEEK ITEM ENTITLED "PROTECTIONISM, ITS ALWAYSTHE OTHER GUY," SAID "THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS AND THE DETERIORATION OF THE US TRADE BALANCE MIGHT GIVE NEW STRENGTH TO PROTECTIONIST CLAIMS OF SOME AMERICAN INDUSTRIALISTS. ALREADY, THEIR ARGUMENTS ARE BASED ON DIFFERENCES, NOT ONLY REGARDING PRICES, BUT IN ECONOMIC SYSTEMS." ARTICLE CONCLUDED, "IT WOULD BE REGRETTABLE

IF ELECTORAL PREOCCUPATION WERE TO LEAD DIFFERENT GOVERNMENTS TO FORGET THEIR OFFICIAL DECLARATIONS IN FAVOR OF FREE TRADE."

6. FINANCIAL DAILY LES ECHOS ARTICLE ENTITLED "PROTECTIONISM, A TRANS-ATLANTIC TENNIS MATCH," SAID TENNIS AND BASEBALL CHAMPION, WILLIAM WALKER... IS A MASTER IN THE ART OF PUTTING THE BALL IN THE OTHER MAN'S COURT." TOUGH-TONED ARTICLE SAID THAT DURING PRESS CONFERENCE WALKER "DID NOT SATISFY HIMSELF BY REJECTING THE ACCUSATIONS OF PROTECTIONISM THROWN AT HIM BY THE JOURNALISTS. PASSING TO THE COUNTERATTACK, HE REPROACHED THE FRENCH FOR PROMOTING EXPORTS BY MEANS OF TVA AND THEN ASKED, "IS IT NORMAL THAT A COUNTRY WHICH CLAIMS TO BE IN FAVOR OF FREE TRADE PERMITS PROTECTIONISH PROCEDURES UNDER A PRETEXT AS VAGUE AS 'DAMAGE'? FIFTY APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE BASED ON THIS RATIONALE DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS... BUT WALKER IS NONETHELESS CERTAIN THAT THE 'GREAT NEGOTIATION' WILL END IN 1977 AS AGREED AT RAMBOUILLET. HIS CONCERN IS THAT THE FRENCH NOT MAKE EVERYTHING BREAK DOWN BY INSISTING ON A RETURN TO FIXED EXCHANGE RATES... WALKER GAVE ASSURANCES THAT THE DOLLAR IS NOT UNDERRATED. HOW CAN WE SHOW HIM THAT HE IS WRONG."

7. L-AURORE, CONSERVATIVE MASS CIRCULATION DAILY IN LENGTHY ARTICLE "AMERICANS REVIVE THE DEMONS OF PROTECTIONISM" DESCRIBED US TRADE POLICY POSITION AS STATED BY AMBASSADOR WALKER AND POINTED TO IMPROVING ECONOMIC SITUATION IN US. EUROPEANS ARE THUS "ASTONISHED" AT US EFFORTS TO RESTRICT EC IMPORTS." AFTER DESCRIBING AUTOMOBILE, SPECIALTY STEEL AND FOOT- UNCLASSIFIED

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WEAR CASES, ANOTHER STATED "THESE EPISODES CAST DOUBT ON THE SINCERITY OF AMERICAN AUTHORITIES."

ARTICLE CONCLUDED WITH REFERENCE TO FERRY REMARKS ON MONETARY SYSTEM.

8. LE NOUVEAU JOURNAL, FINANCIAL DAILY, EMPHASIZED FERRY STATEMENTS ON MONETARY STABILIZATION AND FRENCH CRITICISM OF CURRENT TRADE ACT CASES "WHOSE PROTECTIONIST CHARACTER IS EVIDENT...WALKER, FOR THE DEFENSE, HAD TO CLAIM THE OPPOSITE."

9. CATHOLIC LA CROIX STORY "THE US REJECTS CHARGE OF PROTECTIONISM" SAID SUBSTANCE OF WALKER REMARKS TO PATRONAT WAS THAT THE US WILL DEFEND ITS NATIONAL

INTERESTS BUT REJECTS PROTECTIONISM. AARTICLE
SUMMARIZED WALKER STATEMENTS ON OPEN PROCEDURES
AS WELL AS FERRY CRITICISM OF PROTECTIONISM AND HIS
STATEMENT ON MONETARY SITUATION.

10. IN SECOND ARTICLE, MARCH 4, FRANCE-SOR,
REFERRED TO "DIALOGUE OF THE DEAF" WITH PATRONAT
EMPHASIZING MOUNTING PROTECTIONIST CURRENT IN THE US
AIMED AT "OUR EXPORTS OF STEEL AND CARS NOTABLY, AND
WHICH ACCORDIG TO THE PATRONAT, PRESIDENT FORD CANNOT
OPPOSE AS THE ELECTIONS APPROACH...WALKER LOST NO TIME
RETURNING THE BALL TO THE FRENCH..THE TRADE ACT IS NOT
PROTECTIONIST, HE SAID. TO THE CONTRARY, IT IS
THE MANIFESTATION OF AMERICAN DETERMINATION THAT
INTERNATIONAL TRADE TAKE PLACE FAIRLY. THE US
ADMINISTRATION LISTENS TO THE COMPLAINTS OF
BUSINESSMEN BUT DOESN'T NECESSARILY GIVE THEM
SATISFACTION.. THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR EVEN
BECAME THE ACCUSOR BY REPROACHING THE FRENCH
FOR THEIR LACK OF INTEREST IN REDUCING TARIFFS IN THE
MTN EVEN THOUGH FRANCE, MORE INTEGRATED IN WORLD
COMMERCE THAN THE US, WOULD BENEFIT CONSIDERABLY."

11. WE ARE TRANSLATING ARTICLES AND WILL POUCH UPON
COMPLETION. WALKER

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Message Attributes

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